

SAS Board Minutes

July 27, 2021

Via Zoom call

Participating: Tim Johnson, Michael Babbitt, Carolyn Homan, Maureen Leong Kee Mike Williams, Cynthia Donald, Lowell Spring, Doug Spencer

Absent: Judy Brunkal, Jenny Ammon, Laurie Buswell (couldn't connect via phone)

Call to Order: Tim called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Minutes from June– Michael noted the need for different wording under “Georgia Marshall visit”: She visited earlier to see the Gehlar Hall site and future site of the Dave Marshall classroom. Tim is trying to work with Georgia’s friends Claire Pucy and Lynn Herring from Portland Audubon to arrange another visit so Georgia can see the progress at the complex. Tim has suggested July 20, 24 or 25.

Tim moved approval as corrected; Lowell seconded. Minutes approved.

Review of Action Items: Tim has done a web cam test with the September Birder’s Night speaker and will set up another test before the actual presentation. He invited Harry Fuller to give an update on Birder’s Night meeting space going forward but did not hear back. Harry did check with the City of Salem regarding using a space at the library. That would be ideal because we could have a live speaker and Zoom coverage or a Zoom speaker and live audience using a web cam and lap top. Mike Unger will work with Tim to set up a test of the system.

NATURE CENTER UPDATE

Water system – A major water break recently flooded the Gehlar Hall service room and a large portion of the classroom. Tim discovered it and the water was mopped up. Dehumidifiers and fans have been running. There is a meeting Tuesday to assess the damage. Tim thinks there is no structural damage but will confirm with the Dalke representative, Jim Schiess. The doors warped and will have to be planed. They will check the walls and wainscotting for needed repair. The plumbing has been repaired but the screw fittings may need to be replaced so this doesn’t happen again. Tim’s also checking on installing a drip pan and water sensor so we’re alerted to any future breaks. No word on the possible expense. Dalke has picked up past expenses related to the water system.

Georgia Marshall visit – Georgia and Claire Pucy visited July 25 (Lynn Herring was unable to join). Tim, Michael, Carolyn, Samantha and Hope Pressley (on loan this summer from San Francisco refuge) reviewed progress made since Georgia’s original visit 2 years ago, as well as progress on plans for the Dave Marshall classroom. The visit went well. Claire and Georgia spent about 2 hours at the Center, touring not only the classroom but the Nature Explore area and the Marshall classroom site.

Refuge agreement updates – Doug, Ray and Mike W., as well as Tim, have all reviewed the Facilities Use Agreement, along with the Standard Operating agreement. They are trying to keep changes to relatively minor tweaks to avoid long delays for referral to the Service’s legal counsel. Hope Pressley is helping with both reviews. The agreements are part of the Partner Design and Construction agreement. Tim will send these to the Board as well as the DMT notes when available.

Strategic Plan update – ***Action Item: Carolyn will incorporate the changes to the Nature Center goals section. *Action Item: Tim will send her the “final” strategic plan copy for updating.**

Watering – Tim said Samantha needs volunteers to help with watering at the Nature Explore and Center area. Tim will send a link to the calendar she’s developing for volunteer signup. He said she

also plans to seed more areas with native grasses once weeds that have taken over are under control.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education – Lowell reported on the summer school event held at Perrydale. Reaction was mixed as to results. He said he did not charge enough for the sessions presented (\$150) and will charge at least \$300 if there is another opportunity. The August event at Cascade is pretty much in turmoil. He has offered to be there Aug. 17 and 18 for nest box building but may not make it 5 hours each day. Jenny was to arrange some help but that is up in the air. Tim said he can be there if needed.

Field Trips, Cynthia – The Common Night Hawk walks at Minto Brown have been cancelled because of security at the park. Tim said someone should be at the park July 28 and Aug. 12 (the nights of the cancelled walks) in case people show up anyway. Cynthia will contact Barbara (the trip leader) about this. The field trip committee is working on scheduling field trips for September. Tim has worries about the rise in Covid cases (delta variant). Cynthia said field trip leaders will have to decide next steps.

Conservation – Tim said Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Mitigation program would like a letter of support for the next phase of restoration at the Gail Achterman area. David Harrison will supply.

Volunteers did a survey at the Noble Oaks property now controlled by the Confederated Tribes. The Tribes also would like a survey of a property along the North Santiam.

Mike Unger also did a survey for a private property owner above Stayton (Bird Haven.) Tim said he would like to organize field trips to this area.

Webinar report – Mike Unger shared this via email.

Nature Reserve – Tim said Lee reported that R&R Tree Service was hired to take down 2 trees that were a safety issue. Reserve work crews are still doing ice storm clean up, watering post-heat wave, etc. The Friends of Trees group will use the Reserve as a training site in October. Lee will be meeting with them regarding plans.

Wood shop – Volunteers have salvaged part of a bad batch of wood but Chet has bought a new load that should last awhile. Chet has had both knees replaced. It's hoped that John Jorgensen will assume leadership of the wood shop.

FINANCIALS

Tim said we had a \$500 balance in June but expenses included \$425 on wood and \$1,500 to R&R Tree. He said he will have to withdraw proceeds from the money market to get us through to the fall. Laurie has said that money is coming in from the summer appeal. The former owner of the wood shop property has become a donor and sent \$500.

The Nature Center accounts include \$332,000 at Edward Jones for Operating. We use the interest proceeds, about \$12,000 a year, to pay for expenses. Tim recently installed a microwave signal and wifi routers for the Nature Center. We still have \$406,000 to spend on development of the next phases of the Center. As soon as the Project Management agreements are signed, we can start talking to Dalke about next steps. There should be sufficient funds for the Dave Marshall classroom and we are hoping for federal infrastructure money for the last phase of Gehlar Hall. Those funds call for "shovel ready" projects and we have plans in place to proceed as soon as there is funding.

Office Move Update – Tim said it went well. There is a lot of excess furniture, however. We will have to get rid of some things or rent another storage unit. Our current unit is full but some things could possibly be discarded. Tim said he and Laurie need to take inventory. Michael said he had not been able to meet with Laurie and Judy at the storage unit to assess the bird specimens there. Tim said it might work to meet at the unit this Tuesday.

Tim said Laurie also has been reviewing infrastructure issues and new phone and Internet plans will save at the new office -- \$100 vs \$250 at the Hawthorne location. She also has taken the lead on arrangements like the Post Office box, address changes, etc.

New website, logo design/ motives and objectives – Tim said we inherited the website and it is hard to work with. Changes to templates are possible but if something goes wrong, there's no way to fix it. Changing to Square Space, which was used for the N.C. website, would give more flexibility.

Board discussed design objectives. Mike and others listed a simpler presentation and less text, plus more dynamic visuals (pictures of birds!) as needed elements. Mike said it would be good to better integrate and coordinate Kestrel information with the website. With Square Space, users also could easily switch to a Spanish version (and perhaps other languages.) Most Board members favored a less text-heavy look. Maureen like the idea of having an interactive calendar. Mike said a redesign would also enable the convenience of having the domain and website, etc., all in one provider. Tim said a host for the Outlook account is an issue. Sky Toaster does it now for \$90/year. Mike said Square Space will host, no problem, but it will cost more.

Mike shared some initial work he had done on a Square Space version. He said he would do more work and also compare traffic information between the SAS site and the Nature Center site, to get a feel for what users are preferring.

As for the logo, Mike said we need a higher resolution image. The issue is changing the look of the kestrel – do we want an erect portrait, the bird in flight or ...? The logo has to compliment the new web design. Mike offered to work with consultant Jeri Haugh to get a new version that is clean and simple, which will work on envelopes, stationery, the website or merchandise like hats.

Adjourned: 7:40 p.m. Next meeting: Tuesday, Aug. 25, 6 p.m.